



Tennessee
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

Farm Facts



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Tennessee Crops Survive Adverse Weather

Tennessee crops appeared to have survived Tropical Storm Isidore and Lili's heavy rainfall and winds without any significant damage, although a few West Tennessee counties did experience flooding along rivers and creeks. In fact, the above normal rainfall actually replenished drought-stressed pastures, helped fill stock ponds, and provided moisture for late planted soybeans. Harvest of this year's row crops, however, have been slowed due to wet conditions. State Statistician Debra Kenerson expressed, "Tennessee farmers are relieved to have been spared from substantial harm to crops and livestock and are anxious to get back in their fields and proceed with harvest." According to a October 1 Yield Survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service, production totals for all crops are well below last year's levels but still better than the past 5-year average. The October survey collects farmers' expectations of final yields assuming normal weather conditions through harvest and showed the following results: **Cotton**, 660 pounds of lint per acre, down 103 pounds from 2001; **Corn**, 107 bushels per acre, down 25 bushels from the previous year; **Soybeans**, 31 bushels per acre, 3 bushels less than a year ago; **Other Hay**, excluding alfalfa, 2.1 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from last year; and **Burley Tobacco**, 1,800 pounds per acre, 200 pounds below last year and the lowest since 1998. Yield per acre for the other tobacco types are forecast at: **Type 22**, 2,900 pounds; **Type 23**, 3,100 pounds; and **Type 35**, 2,500 pounds, all down from 2001.

State's Cotton Crop Ready for Harvest

Cotton production is forecast at 770,000 bales, unchanged from the previous forecast, but 21 percent below the 2001 record production. Yield is forecast at 660 pounds, the same as last month, but 103 pounds below last year's record. Producers faced many challenges during September. The recent wet weather caused delays in harvest and defoliation activities, and has many growers concerned about quality. As of the first week in October, virtually all of the crop was open and defoliation was nearly three-fourths complete. Harvest was lagging behind the normal pace by 7 to 10 days.

Corn Production Down 19 Percent from 2001

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 66.3 million bushels, down 19 percent from 2001. Corn yields are expected to average 107 bushels per acre, down 25 bushels from last year's record high, but up a bushel from the September forecast. Although planting of this year's corn crop got underway on time, development was slowed due to unseasonable cool, wet weather this spring. The crop has suffered difficulties with insects, unfavorable weather conditions, and flooding along the Mississippi River. Throughout the month of September, corn crop development outpaced last year and the 5-year average. By month's end, Tropical Storm Isidore passed through the State, slowing harvest. As of the week ending September 29, 11 percent of the 620,000 acres for grain harvest remained unharvested. Harvest progress continues ahead of the normal pace.

Soybean Yields Improve Slightly

The State's soybean yield is forecast at 31 bushels per acre, up a bushel from the September forecast but 3 bushels below last year. Soybean production from the projected 1.12 million acres for grain is expected to total 34.7 million bushels, down 2 percent from 2001. Late August and mid-September rainfall particularly helped improve the condition of the double-cropped beans. By the first of October, soybean development was slightly ahead of the normal pace with three-fourths of the acreage dropping leaves. Over 50 percent of the crop is rated in good to excellent condition with harvest progressing in line with normal.

Burley Production Lowest in 61 Years

Tennessee's burley tobacco growers expect to produce 54.0 million pounds, down 10.0 million pounds from last year and, if realized, the lowest production since 1941. Average yield is forecast at 1,800 pounds per acre from 30,000 acres. As harvest of this year's burley crop nears completion, prospects for a better than average crop remain dim for most East Tennessee and a few Middle Tennessee growers. The burley crop has suffered a season of prolonged drought stress in many locations. Therefore, the rain received in August and September arrived too late to add any significant weight to the crop. Burley stripping is underway with good conditions for curing. The majority of the dark types have been harvested, with most of it now in the barns. Yields per acre are forecast at 2,900 pounds for Type 22; 3,100 pounds for Type 23; and 2,500 pounds for Type 35, all unchanged from the August forecast, but down from last year.

Hay Production Below Last Year's Record

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.31 million tons, 7 percent below last year's record production. Yields are expected to average 2.10 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons from a year ago. Hay harvest got underway on schedule in a few areas of the state by the end of April, but quickly fell behind normal due to wet conditions in early May. Tennessee producers had good yields on their first cuttings, although some quality suffered because the crop was too ripe.

2001 Soybeans Revised

Tennessee's 2001 soybean production was revised to 35.4 million bushels, down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Acreage planted and harvested were both decreased by 10,000 acres. The 2001 yield, at 34.0 bushels per acre, was unchanged from the previous estimate. Revisions were made based on an analysis of end-of-marketing year stock estimates, disappearance data for exports and crushings, and farm program administrative data.

Crop Forecasts: Tennessee and United States, October 1, 2002, with Comparisons

Crop Forecast: Tennessee and United States, October 1, 2002, with Comparisons							
Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002	2001	Indicated 2002
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
Tennessee							
Apples	lb.	—	—	---	—	9,000	8,000
Corn for grain	bu.	620	620	132	107	81,840	66,340
Cotton ¹	lb.	615	560	763	660	978	770
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,100	2,050	2.20	2.10	4,620	4,305
Peaches	lb.	—	—	---	—	3,700	4,000
Soybeans	bu.	1,040	1,120	34.0	31.0	35,360	34,720
Tobacco, All	lb.	39.69	35.90	2,189	1,977	86,893	70,990
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	6.5	5.0	3,000	2,900	19,500	14,500
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.52	.40	3,175	3,100	1,651	1,240
Burley (31)	lb.	32.0	30.0	2,000	1,800	64,000	54,000
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.67	.50	2,600	2,500	1,742	1,250
Winter Wheat	bu.	340	300	54.0	46.0	18,360	13,800
United States							
Apples	lb.	—	---	---	---	9,629,100	8,910,600
Corn for grain	bu.	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.2	9,506,840	8,969,836
Cotton ¹	lb.	13,827.7	12,861.4	705	674	20,302.8	18,070.0
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	76,437	75,792
Peaches	lb.	—	—	---	—	2,441,400	2,531,700
Soybeans	bu.	72,975	71,799	39.6	37.0	2,890,682	2,653,798
Tobacco, All	lb.	432.40	434.30	2,293	2,040	991,519	886,020
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	9.80	7.50	3,135	2,900	30,720	21,750
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	3.62	2.80	3,419	3,271	12,377	9,160
Burley (31)	lb.	164.30	161.50	2,033	1,880	334,066	303,066
One-sucker (35)	lb.	3.42	2.70	2,821	2,744	9,648	7,410
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	1,361,479	1,142,802

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about October 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to October 1, Crop Years 1999-2002

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1999	2000	2001	2002
All Cotton				
AL	77,900	97,200	19,250	32,750
AZ	27,100	72,050	46,850	43,400
AR	335,700	295,200	250,900	76,700
CA ¹		22,550	16,250	4,100
FL ¹	5,000	5,800		
GA	63,900	44,600	44,300	89,600
LA	277,700	413,050	150,800	122,850
MS	470,900	595,200	306,600	275,700
MO	135,700	108,350	93,400	16,400
NM ¹		2,500	1,100	
NC ¹		4,100	3,350	11,850
OK ¹	2,250	13,350		6,100
SC	4,000	11,150	7,800	4,350
Tennessee	152,800	220,200	135,050	39,400
TX	1,134,550	1,380,450	993,700	920,850
VA ¹	0	0		
US	2,689,850	3,285,750	2,071,700	1,647,850

¹ Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins.

U.S. Dairy Products Highlights: Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) during August 2002 was 686 million pounds, 3.9 percent above August 2001 and 2.1 percent above July 2002.

American type cheese production during August 2002 totaled 305 million pounds, 8.2 percent above August 2001 and 1.1 percent above July 2002. Butter production was 88.5 million pounds in August, 17.2 percent above August 2001 but 5.8 percent below July 2002.

°Frozen dessert: (comparisons with August 2001)

Ice cream, Regular (hard) --- 78.2 million gallons, down 2.0 percent.

°Ice cream, Lowfat (total) --- 36.6 million gallons, down 8.4 percent.

°Ice cream, Nonfat (hard) --- 1.46 million gallons, down 20.3 percent.

°Sherbet (hard) --- 5.09 million gallons, up 9.4 percent.

°Frozen Yogurt (total) --- 7.30 million gallons, down 9.5 percent.

°Nonfat dry milk for human food: (compared with August 2001) --- 114 million pounds, up 18.3 percent.

°Dry whey products: (comparisons with August 2001)

°Dry whey, human --- 87.4 million pounds, up 12.1 percent.

°Dry whey, animal --- 5.77 million pounds, up 12.5 percent.

°Dry whey, total --- 93.2 million pounds, up 12.1 percent.

Tennessee Milk Production: July-September quarterly production of milk was 360 million pounds, up 5,000 pounds from the July-September period in 2001. The average number of milk cows in Tennessee during the July-September quarter was 90,000 head, 3,000 head less than the same period a year earlier.

U.S. July-September Milk Production: The quarterly production of milk for the U.S. was 42.0 billion pounds, 3.4 percent above the July-September period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.16 million head, 61,000 head more than the same period last year.

Quarterly Milk Production: Tennessee and United States, July-September 2001-2002

Item	Unit	Tennessee		United States	
		2001	2002	2001	2002
		1,000 Head		Million Pounds	
Milk cows on farms ¹	1,000	93	90	9,114	9,145
Milk production ²	mil. lbs.	355	360	42,681	43,954

¹ Includes dry cows, but excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk sucked by calves.

ERS Agricultural Outlook

U.S. Agricultural Exports Forecast to Rise in Fiscal 2003: Sharply higher prices for grains and soybeans, reflecting drought-reduced U.S. production, are expected to boost the value of U.S. agricultural exports to \$57.5 billion in fiscal year 2003, a 7.5-percent gain over 2002. Bulk commodity exports are likely to lead the gains, although high-value product (HVP) exports also are expected to increase. Higher corn export volume is more than offset by lower soybean volume, pulling bulk export volume down from 2002. U.S. agricultural imports also are projected up in 2003, but with a smaller gain than for exports. Forecast at \$42 billion, imports will be \$1.5 billion (4 percent) above estimates for 2002. This rate of growth over the previous year is higher than in some recent years that were plagued by financial crises, but is still well below the strong average annual rates of growth of U.S. imports in the mid-1990s. Most of the projected increase in import value is in horticultural products, such as fruits and juices, and wine and malt beverages. These products are likely to show gains in both volume and value. Most U.S. horticultural product imports come from Canada and Mexico. The 2003 U.S. agricultural export surplus is forecast at \$15.5 billion, 19 percent or \$2.5 billion above the surplus estimated for 2002. This would be the largest export surplus since fiscal year 1998.

Source: USDA/ERS *Agricultural Outlook*, October 2002.

Food Price Inflation Should Moderate in 2002: Consumers' demand for beef, dairy products and fresh fruits and vegetables contributed to a larger increase in 2001 food prices than forecast earlier this year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all food is forecast up 3.2 percent in 2001, following smaller increases of 2.1 percent in 1999 and 2.3 percent in 2000. The food CPI is expected to moderate in 2002, rising 2.5 to 3.0 percent. For the all-items CPI in 2001, the inflation rate is forecast at 3 percent, the same as in 2000. The CPI, which measures changes in prices only, increased 2.5 percent for full-service meals and snacks (restaurants) in 2000, while the CPI for limited-service meals and snacks (fast-food establishments) increased 2.7 percent. In 2001, the increases have been higher, with restaurants increasing 3.1 percent and fast-food establishments increasing 2.9 percent. Restaurants and fast-food establishments competed vigorously with food-at-home sales and take-home meals offered by supermarkets. The three main sources of takeout food are fast-food establishments (33 percent), restaurants (23 percent), and supermarkets (20 percent).

Total sales of food purchased by consumers increased 7.4 percent in 2000, with food-at-home sales increasing 8.5 percent and food-away-from-home sales (restaurants and fast-food establishments) increasing 6.2 percent. These increases were the largest since 1990, indicating greater consumer purchases of luxury or convenience food items and willingness to pay higher retail prices for Choice beef, dairy products, and fresh fruits and vegetables. With an unsettled economy in 2001 and perhaps 2002, food sales are expected to return to the trend of 3.0 to 5.0 percent annual increases.

Source: USDA/ERS *Agricultural Outlook*, October 2002.

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